

Honorable Richard M. Nolan
ITC Testimony
Final phase antidumping and countervailing duty investigations: Steel
Concrete Reinforcing Bar (Rebar) from Japan, Taiwan, and Turkey, Inv. Nos.
701-TA-564 and 731-TA-1338-1340 (Final)
May 18, 2017

First let me thank the members of the commission for the diligence and care you have taken in analyzing these petitions on imports of steel concrete reinforcing bar – or “rebar” – from Japan, Taiwan and Turkey.

On behalf of America’s iron mining and steel workers and all the businesses and families they support, I am here today to urge you as strongly as I possibly can to make an affirmative determination that our Nation’s iron ore and steel industries have been materially injured.

As you know, rebar is a fundamental ingredient in all of our nation’s infrastructure from our bridges to our locks and dams. It is abundantly clear that rebar is critical for our national economy and our national security.

Because rebar is so essential to our infrastructure it is vital that it be made of the best quality and under the best conditions with high labor, safety, health and environmental standards.

The fact of the matter is - iron mining, steel and manufacturing are the foundations of our national security and our economic security – supporting tens of millions of good paying jobs.

Make no mistake - if foreign trade cheater nations are allowed to continue dumping their illegally subsidized steel into our marketplace, our domestic iron ore and steel industries will one day cease to exist.

And our Nation will become dependent on others for the steel we need to ensure our national defense capabilities – build our infrastructure – and manufacture our vehicles, our appliances and our consumer goods.

We cannot allow that to happen.

If we do – thousands of manufacturing facilities would be shut down.

Millions of good paying jobs would be lost.

And the consequences for our economy and our national security would be devastating beyond repair.

As I have pointed out before this body on a number of occasions, given a level global playing field, America's iron ore mining and steel industry workers can compete and win against anyone in the world.

All around the world American steel is recognized to be the gold standard for its quality and endurance.

But our workers cannot compete with foreign governments and their state-owned operations that do not operate for profit – and that dump hundreds of

millions of tons of their products into our marketplace at prices far below the cost of production.

On Minnesota's Iron Range in my district, and all across our nation, the material damage this illegal dumping by trade cheater nations has caused could not be more clear, more compelling or more devastating.

Former White House Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough, saw the effects for himself when he visited Minnesota's Iron Range in December of 2015 at my request to meet with miners, elected officials and business leaders.

At that time, illegal foreign steel dumping had put more than 3,500 miners, steelworkers and employees in supporting businesses out of work. Small towns across the region were losing their grocery stores, their pharmacies and their livelihoods.

High school seniors were postponing or foregoing the college educations.

Families were draining what little savings they had just to put food on the table and pay the mortgage.

Local food shelves couldn't keep up with the demand as the number of families seeking help doubled and tripled.

And let me point out that this crisis on the Iron Range was not – and is not – parochial in nature.

Coast to coast, more than 12,000 steel workers have lost their jobs to illegal foreign steel.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the overall economic impact on millions of businesses and jobs and working families as the ripple effects continue to spread.

Up in northern Minnesota, the McDonough visit is now being called "the day that changed everything" because it signaled the beginning of the Obama Administration's crackdown on illegal foreign steel dumping.

Thanks to the tariffs and taxes this body has imposed – thanks to the President Obama's executive actions that included my specific request for 38 new processors at the Department of Commerce to investigate trade cases – and thanks to the legislation known as the ENFORCE Act – things are beginning to turn around.

Commerce and Customs are already enforcing 202 anti-dumping and countervailing orders against foreign steel and other manufactured products.

The glut of illegal foreign steel in our marketplace is slowly dissipating.

The price of American iron ore has risen to \$61 dollars a ton – up from \$40 dollars at its low point in 2014.

Our steel manufacturing industry is operating at about 71% of capacity – far short of where it should be but nonetheless on the rise.

And most gratifying on Minnesota's Iron Range, nearly 1,000 iron ore miners and workers are back on the job – with more to come.

And because market conditions have improved, Cliffs Natural Resources – the largest mining employer on the Iron Range – is investing \$75 million dollars in new mining operations and 21st Century mining technologies.

Those actions provide renewed hope – and should help ensure good paying jobs across the region for many years to come.

But make no mistake. Economic recovery from foreign steel dumping is on a long, tough road.

There can be no backsliding and no let-up.

It is imperative that we put American workers and America's iron ore and steel industries first as we continue to reform our trade policies.

If this recovery is to continue, we will need to double down and make these tariffs and taxes permanent.

Our iron ore mining and steel industries and the families and businesses they support are still suffering.

Our national security and our economic security are still under severe threat from these trade cheater nations and their illegal steel.

So strongly urge you to make a final affirmative determination on this petition and to support the thousands of good-paying jobs supported by our nation's rebar industry.

And by doing so, continue to provide a measure of hope that the fragile economic recovery we are seeing in northern Minnesota and across our iron ore mining and steel industries will become permanent as well.

Thank you.